

Message Text

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70

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 SCA-01 SCSE-00 H-02

INR-07 DLOS-05 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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O R 052115Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4323

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 0881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, EC, US

SUBJECT: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TO DETAINED TUNA VESSELS

1. FEB 3 CONSUL GENERAL AND CONSUL LEVY, CHIEF OF EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION, TRAVELLED TO SALINAS WITH ZAPATA VICE PRESIDENT ARTHUR SOUSA. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY CONSUL KELLER, LEVY REPLACED HIM AS USG REP IN SALINAS. FROM LATE AFTERNOON UNTIL MIDNIGHT LEVY AND CONSUL GENERAL WERE WITH CAPT DAVID RICO, MASTER OF A.K. STROM, AND CAPT JOHN BURICH, MASTER OF NEPTUNE, WHILE CAPTAINS WENT THROUGH PROCESS OF MAKING DECLARATIONS RE SEIZURES (GUAYAQUIL 213) TO PORT CAPTAIN AND DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES REP. DINNER IN SALINAS ATTENDED BY TWO CAPTAINS, CONSUL GENERAL, LEVY, ALTERNATE MASTER LARKING OF NEPTUNE, OWNER AND CAPTAIN OF CAPTURED PANAMIAN VESSEL "EL PERRO," PORT CAPTAIN, AND FISHERIES DIRECTORATE REPS.

2. MORNING OF FEB. 4, CONSUL GENERAL AND LEVY HAD BREAKFAST ABOARD A. K. STROM. ATTENDED MEETING ON BOARD WITH REPS OF ALL CAPTURED VESSELS PRESENT. FREE-WHEELING DISCUSSION OF ALL ASPECTS OF SEIZURES SITUATION ENSUED. ON ITEM OF STRICTLY CONSULAR NATURE, MATE OF CITY OF LISBON RAISED VALID POINT THAT HE BELIEVED CONSULAR OFFICER SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENT WHEN ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS CAME ON BOARD TO

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INSPECT CONDITION OF CATCH. CONSUL GENERAL AGREED, AND

OFFERED AS EXPLANATION, NOT EXCUSE, THAT IN FAST MOVING AND UNCERTAIN SITUATION FOLLOWING FIRST CAPTURE CONSULAR OFFICER IN SALINAS DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD BE STEPS IN PROCESS AND IN SOME INSTANCES HAD NOT RECEIVED ADVANCE NOTIFICATION CONCERNING ACTIONS BY ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES. BEFORE 1300 DEPARTURE FROM VESSEL ANOTHER REVIEW OF SITUATION HELD WITH CAPTAINS RICCO AND BURICH.

3. ON FEBRUARY 5, CONSUL LEVY VISITED EACH OF SEVEN SHIPS, INFORMED CAPTAINS OF AMBASSADOR'S PROJECTED FEBRUARY 6 VISIT, AND INVITED EACH OF CAPTAINS TO LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, CONSUL GENERAL DEWITT, NAVATT RALPH AND CONSUL LEVY AT SALINAS HOTEL.
BREWSTER

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